

Message Text

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P 012104Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L S T A T E 0 7 2 0 1 8

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, UR, US

SUBJECT: US-USSR CIVIL AVIATION RELATIONS

REF: MOSCOW 3244

1. REQUEST EMBASSY REPLY TO SOVIET NOTE AND NON-PAPER
WITH THE FOLLOWING:

2. BEGIN TEXT. THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA, REFERRING TO THE NOTE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF THE USSR, DATED MARCH 11, 1977, CONCERNING
THE AIR SERVICES THAT MAY BE OPERATED BY THE DESIGNATED
AIRLINES OF THE US AND THE USSR, HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO
CONVEY THE FOLLOWING TO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT:

THE UNITED STATES IS NOT PREPARED TO INCREASE THE LEVEL
OF SCHEDULED AIR SERVICES AUTHORIZED FOR OPERATION BY THE
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DESIGNATED AIRLINES OF THE US AND THE USSR BEYOND THE
STATUS QUO (TWO FLIGHTS EACH PER WEEK) UNTIL THE ISSUE
OF THE FUNDAMENTAL IMBALANCE OF BENEFITS IS ADDRESSED
AND RESOLVED IN A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY MANNER.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS CONCERNED OVER THE
STATED AND IMPLICIT THREATS BY THE SOVIET UNION TO

DISALLOW CHARTER FLIGHTS BY US AIRLINES. WE TAKE THIS OCCASION TO REITERATE THE FACT THAT AEROFLOT RECEIVED RIGHTS TO SERVE WASHINGTON, D.C. ONLY AFTER THE UNITED STATES WAS GIVEN ASSURANCES FOR THE FACILITATION OF CHARTER FLIGHTS. SHOULD US CHARTERS BE DISALLOWED, IT MAY, THEREFORE, NOT BE POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN EVEN THE CURRENT STATUS QUO ON REGULAR FREQUENCIES.

PRIOR TO THE LAST ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS, THE UNITED STATES URGED THE SOVIET SIDE TO ADHERE TO THE EXISTING CIVIL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENTS AND TO TAKE A MORE POSITIVE APPROACH TO RESOLVING THE FUNDAMENTAL IMBALANCE OF BENEFITS. ALTHOUGH SOME PROGRESS WAS MADE IN THE RECENT NEGOTIATIONS, A FULLY SATISFACTORY BASIS FOR RESOLVING THE IMBALANCE COULD NOT BE FOUND. IF THE SOVIET UNION WISHES TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS, THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO DO SO IN THE NEAR FUTURE ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE STATUS QUO ON SCHEDULED AND CHARTER SERVICES IS MEAN WHILE MAINTAINED. END TEXT.

3. COMMENT. WE, TOO, WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE A LITTLE FLEXIBILITY IN OUR POSITION REGARDING THE LINK BETWEEN CHARTER FLIGHTS AND SCHEDULED SERVICES. WE BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT THE ABOVE MESSAGE WILL MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE SOVIETS THAT WE ARE READY TO ACT SHOULD US CHARTERS BE ELIMINATED.

CHRISTOPHER
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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